

George Chapman **the Rhondda suite**



etchings of the district with associated gouaches

**August 3rd - September 3rd 1960 StGeorge's Gallery Prints**

7 Cork Street. London W1 telephone Regent 3660







## George Chapman / the Rhondda suite

George Chapman was born in 1910. His artistic career began at the Gravesend School of Art. He was employed by an Advertising Agency but continued to paint in his spare time, and saved up sufficient funds to join the Slade. Thence he moved to the Royal College of Art, and taught (briefly) at the London School of Printing and Graphic Arts

He was first very much under the influence of Sickert and the Euston Road School: at this time he was exhibiting at the Leicester Galleries and with the London Group. In 1948 he moved to Great Bardfield and became a prolific printmaker

A chance visit through the Rhondda Valley caused him to be so impressed that he has espoused the life and landscape of this area as his subject ever since

The Rhondda Suite are hard ground etchings with aquatint. The colour is relief printing using water inks as opposed to the black oil ink, thereby allowing both black and colour to be printed in one operation

They are printed on heavy 200lbs Hodgkinson Hand made Waterleaf paper, size 31" x 22" at The Etching Studio, Welwyn Garden City

There are 50 edition prints of each with 5 artist's proofs

The prints are published as a set numbered 1 to 10 with an introduction print in a folio at 50 gns

Individual prints numbered 11 to 50 are between 7 gns & 11 gns each

The Rhondda Suite is published by the St George's Gallery Prints as from August 3rd 1960



Eleven miles of narrow valley from Trehafod to Treherbert.

Seventeen villages joining together from beginning to end, the row upon row of terrace houses winding their way through the valley like the river and the trains

One hundred and fifty chapels and churches, ninety three pubs, fifty two 'gents' but (for some reason perhaps best known to women) only nine 'ladies'

One hundred and six thousand human beings. Six thousand of them working bravely below with the rats and the mice in coal blackness. Above, throughout the night the street lamps are kept burning. The children chalk their games on the roads and on the walls. The young girls are smart, pretty and their boy friends, with or without coal dust, handsome

The married couples are busy buying their TV, bubble cars, and 'contemporary' wallpapers and the old people gossip and chatter without a trace of bitterness about the bad old days

Like the sacred cow in India, the sheep wander undisturbed, nibbling the grass in the playgrounds and gardens, nosing into dustbins and holding up the buses, lorries and cars as they slowly and aimlessly cross the roads

It is all a rich and wonderful stream of life. A valley of strength and courage, sometimes sad with tragedy, but always intensely alive

I love it all, with a deep sense of gratitude, (including the seventy five inches of rain) from the top-Treherbert, to the bottom-Trehafod

George Chapman



Cover illustration Pigeon-houses 20" x 20" 10 gns



Old Men at Gossip 16" x 19½" 10 gns





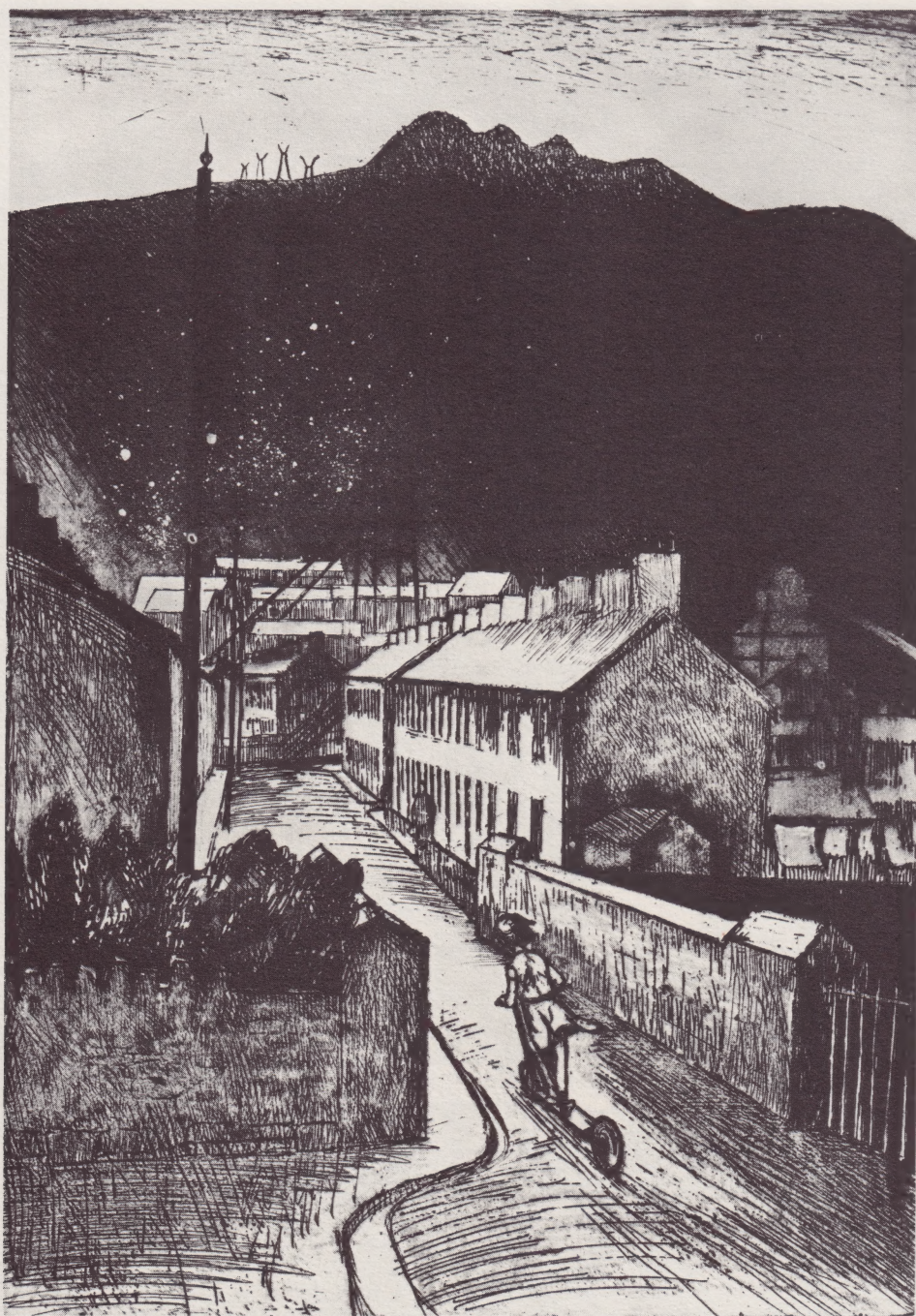
Waiting for a Bus, May 6th 1960 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 12" 8 gns





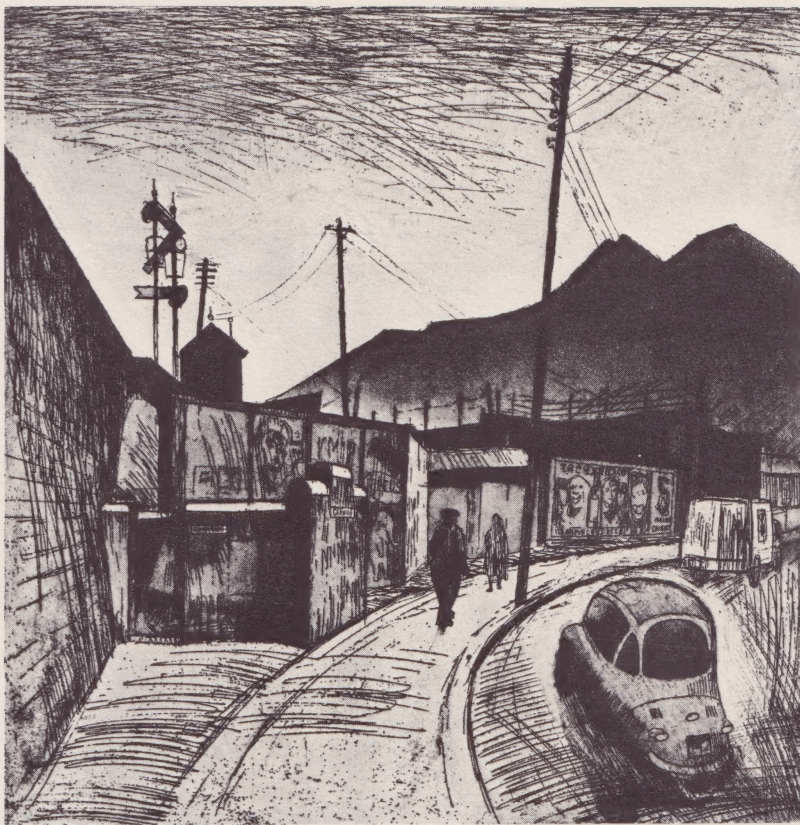
Across the Valley  $21\frac{1}{2}'' \times 16''$  8 gns





The Valley Gets Deeper 27" x 18½" 12 gns





The First Building 20" x 20" 10 gns











